

PARIETARIA PRAETERMISSA (URTICACEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

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Thomas Nuttall, in *The Genera of North American Plants* (1818), described a new annual species of North American *Parietaria*, *P. floridana*, which he characterized as follows (p. 208): "Leaves roundish-ovate, obtuse, as long as the petiole and opaquely punctate; flowers glomerate, equal with the involucre; stem erect. HAB. Near St. Mary's, West Florida.—Dr. Baldwyn. Apparently intermediate between *P. pennsylvanica* and *P. lusitanica*. Leaves not minute, pilose, 3 or 4 lines wide, and with the filiform peduncle an inch long; involucre inconspicuous; stem about 10 to 12 inches high." The name *P. floridana* Nutt. has come to be applied, wrongly, to another species that ranges over much of southeastern United States.

John Kunkel Small, in *Manual of the Southeastern Flora* (1933), described another annual *Parietaria*, also from Florida, as *P. nummularia*. This species was characterized as follows (p. 434-435): "Stem usually branched at base, the branches becoming assurgent or prostrate, mostly 1-3 dm. long: leaf-blades reniform, to rhombic-orbicular or orbicular-ovate, obtuse, relatively long-petioled: sepals abruptly pointed: achene ellipsoid, less than 1 mm. long.—Wet sandy soil, often in hammocks, E and pen. Fla.—The numerous very small leaves gives this plant the aspect of a small-leaved *Pilea*. Specimens of this species and those of *P. floridana* have erroneously been referred to the New Zealand *P. debilis*." According to Small, *P. nummularia* can be distinguished from *P. floridana* by its leaf blades, which are "mostly as wide as long or wider, mostly 0.5 cm. wide," those of *P. floridana* being "manifestly longer than wide, mostly 1-6 cm. long . . . of an ovate or elliptic type," and by its achenes, which are "less than 1 mm. wide [i.e., long]," those of *P. floridana* being "over 1 mm. long." I agree with Small that his *P. nummularia*, which ranges from Delaware to Florida, Louisiana, and Texas, is readily separable from the taxon long-called *P. floridana* although vegetative features alone are not reliable to distinguish the two.

During my study of the annual *Parietaria* of continental United States and Canada, I examined the types of *P. floridana* Nutt. (Near St. Mary's, West Florida, Baldwyn, PH) and *P. nummularia* Small (Sanford, Florida, Rapp, 11 April 1929, NY) and have found that both are plants of the same species.

The name *P. floridana* Nutt., with 115 years of priority, must, therefore, be applied to the taxon that Small called *P. nummularia*. The taxon to which the name *P. floridana* has long been misapplied is in reality, then, an undescribed species, for which the following name and description are proposed.

PARIETARIA praetermissa Hinton, sp. nov.

Annual, prostrate to erect herb with fibrous roots. Stems simple or more commonly branched at the base, finely or minutely pubescent to densely pubescent, terete, faces of internodes smooth to slightly grooved. Leaf blades deltoid to broadly ovate, 4-60 mm. long, 3.75-24 mm. wide, widest at the base or at about the middle, palmately 3-veined, apex rounded to abruptly short-acuminate, base truncate to obtuse or rounded; upper surface smooth or with sparse fine or minute pubescence, more pubescent on the veins. Petiole 4-33 mm. long, usually as long as the width of the blade or longer. Involucral bracts lanceolate to broadly linear, shorter to longer than the calyx, 2.0-5.5 mm. long, 0.3-1.3 mm. wide, pubescent, ciliate on the margins with long hispid and short curled hairs. Calyx tubular for one-half its length, dark reddish-brown at maturity, 2.0-4.0 mm. long, lobes acute, 0.7-1.2 mm. wide, loosely connivent at maturity. Achene asymmetrically apiculate, 1.0-1.4 mm. long (usually 1.2 mm.), 0.65-1.0 mm. wide (usually 0.8 mm.), yellowish (somewhat immature but well developed achenes) to light pinkish-brown, the hilum somewhat protruding from the body of the achene, not flanged.

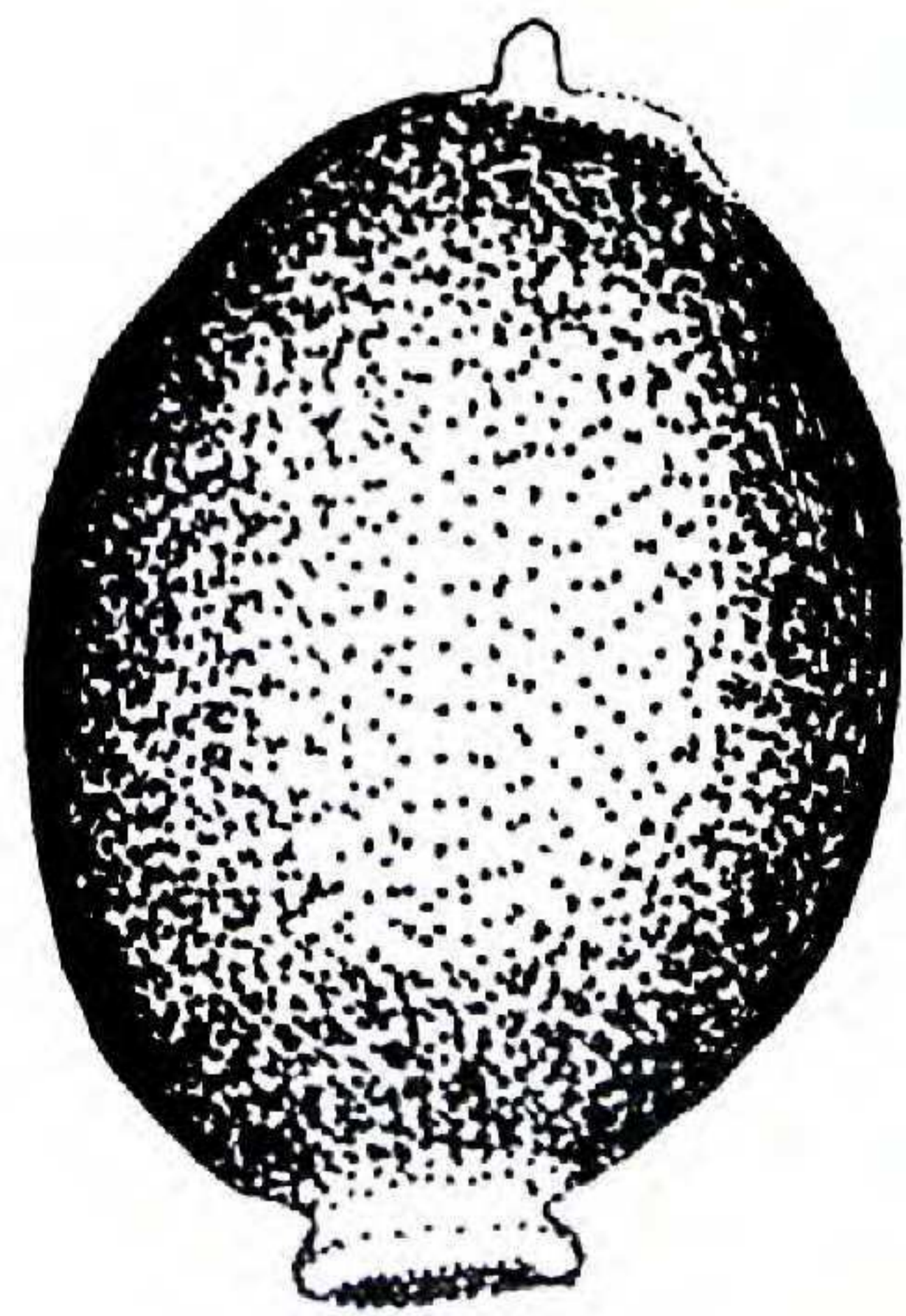
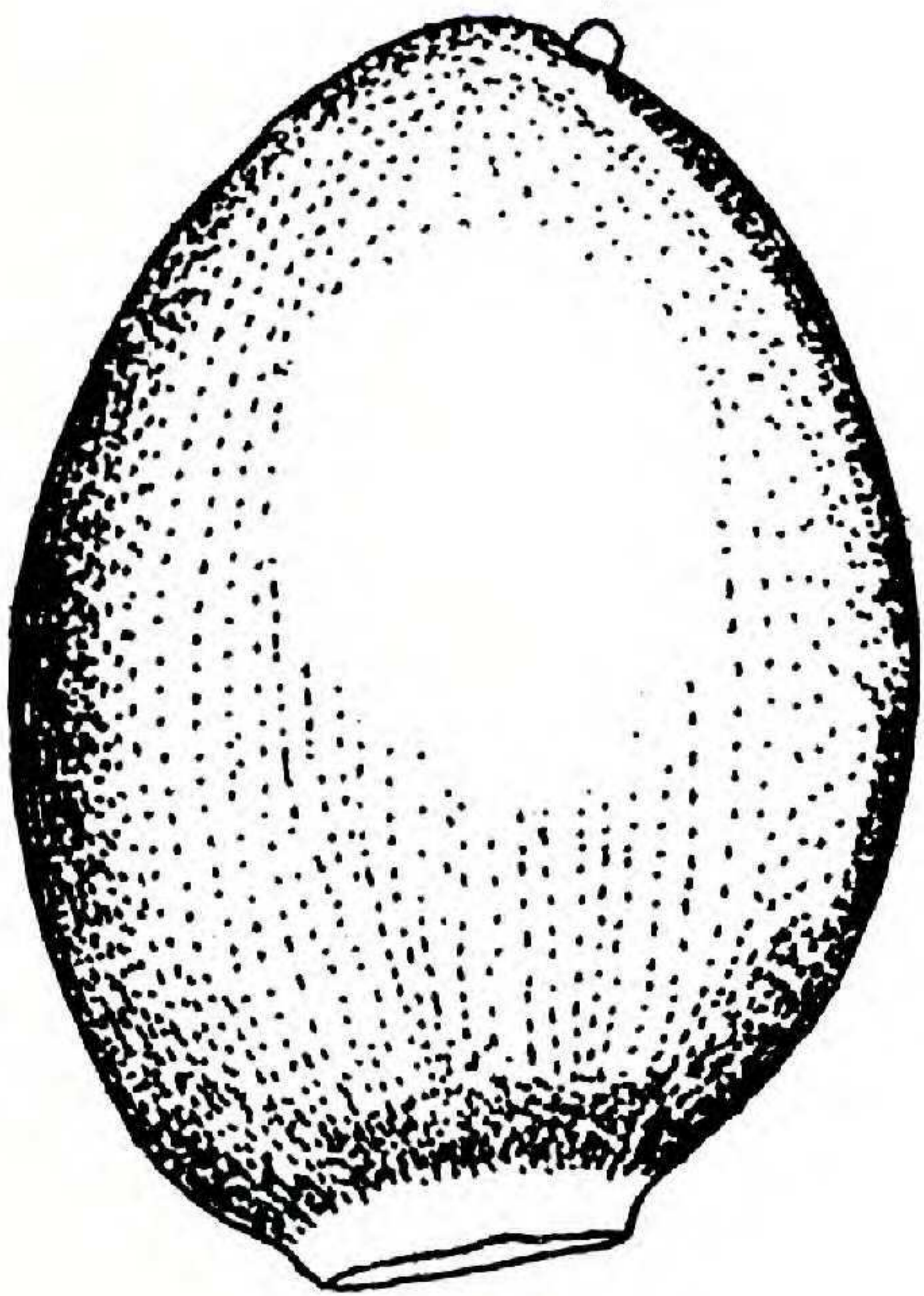
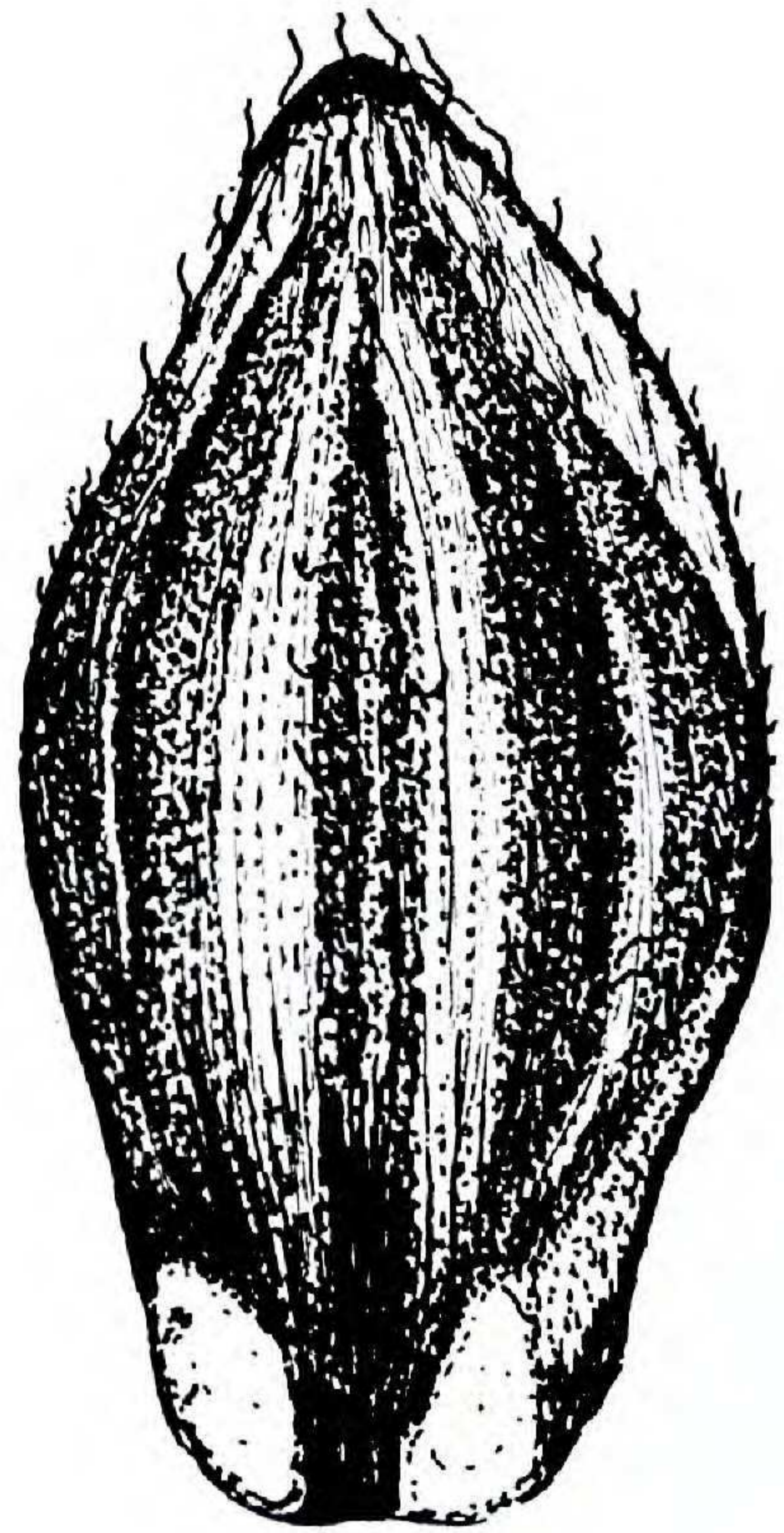
Herba annua prostrata ad erecta, radicibus fibrosis; folia petiolata; lamina deltoidea ad late ovata, basi palmatim 3-nervata, apice rotundata ad abrupte breviter acuminata, basi truncata ad obtusa vel rotundata; calyx 2.0-3.5 mm. longus, lobi 0.7-1.2 mm. lati, laxe conniventes ad maturitatem; achenia asymmetricice apiculata, 1.0-1.4 mm. longa, 0.65-1.0 mm. lata, luteola ad dilute subroseobrunnea, hilum aliquantum protrusum margine non annulatum incrassatum.

Holotype (GH): Florida. Merritt's Island. Feb. 1889, Wm. Canby.

Parietaria praetermissa can be distinguished from *P. floridana*, the only other eastern North American species with palmately 3-veined leaves, as follows.

Achene without a flanged stipe, asymmetrically apiculate, usually longer than 1 mm. *P. praetermissa*

Fig. 1. *Parietaria praetermissa*: calyx in fruit (upper left) $\times 28$; achene (lower left), $\times 50$. *Parietaria floridana*: calyx in fruit (upper right), $\times 60$; achene (lower right), $\times 60$. Figures based on type specimens of these species.



Achene with a flanged stipe, symmetrically apiculate, usually shorter than 1 mm. *P. floridana*

The name *P. debilis* Forst. f. has been applied incorrectly to *P. praetermissa* and *P. floridana*. *Parietaria debilis*, however, has symmetrically apiculate, unstiped achenes which are distinct from those of both *P. praetermissa* and *P. floridana*.

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